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OSS Work Group Priority of 4 Pillars submittals as follows by GMVUAC:
May 17, 2016

1. Top priority should be given to educating the public.
(It worked for recycling, and it should for OSS, also.)

2. No carrot and stick approach to funding Health Department OSS program on the backs of homeowners and businesses. (No fees for existing systems)

3. Funding sources such as new construction building permit fees, Federal and State grants would be another preferred option. (There are fewer then 200 new building/septic permits per year in the unincorporated areas of King County.)

4. New OSS designs should focus on systems for long-term use and ease of inspection. (Does the County receive copies of septic pumping invoices to maintain a record of maintenance and compliance?)

5. Responding to complaints and enforcement are necessary, but focusing on the above should improve OSS leaks and failure rates, and improve long term use of septic systems.

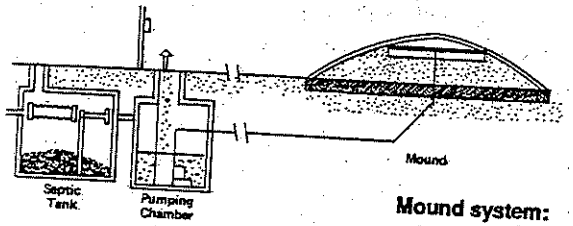
6. Priority should be given to marine recovery areas as this currently affects shellfish and other marine life. (This is where grants may be most useful.)

7. Consult with Rural Area Councils as their areas are 100% septic, and very concerned about pollution and water quality. They can assist through education materials and future OSS program work groups.

Resubmitted on 9-27-16 to
Lynn Schneider OSS program KC Public Health.

Pumps

Mound, Pressure Distribution, Sand Filters, and some gravity systems require the use of a pump (or dosing tank). The purpose of the pump is to transfer effluent from the septic tank to the drainfield. A pump should have an audible (loud) alarm that will sound when the



Mound system: cross section

pump malfunctions or the power is cut off. This requires that the pump and the alarm be on separate circuits. The alarm is usually located in the garage.

What Can You Do to Take Care of a Septic Tank System?

- **Know Where Your Septic Tank and Drainfield Are Located**

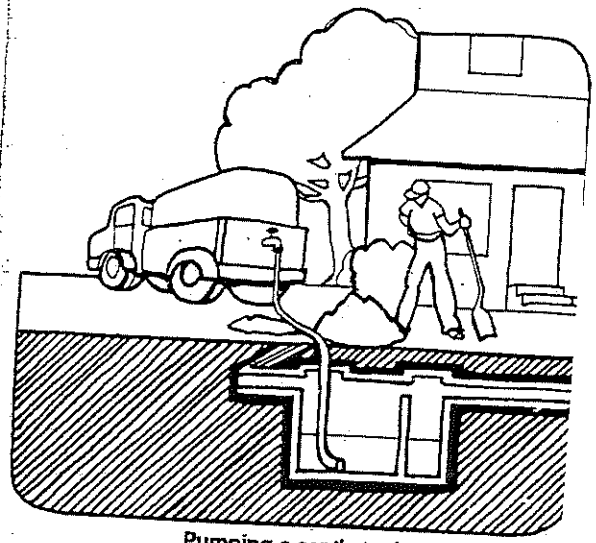
Do you know where your septic tank system is located? You should, because when you need to have your tank pumped or want to work on your house or yard, you'll need to know where the system is. You must know where your drainfield is if you want to protect it from accidental damage caused by landscaping, house construction or vehicle parking. Septic tank companies will charge you extra if they have to find your tank. If you don't know where your system is located contact the Health Department's Service Center nearest you. The plans are probably on file in the Environmental Health Office.

- **Pump Your Septic Tank Every 3 Years**

You need to pump your septic tank periodically to remove accumulated sludge and scum. Otherwise, they will build up and be washed into the disposal field. Particles can then clog the disposal field pipes and soil, requiring expensive repairs. Generally, your tank should be pumped every 3 years, although longer intervals may be satisfactory. The frequency depends partly on your household habits. Use of a garbage disposal in the kitchen, for example, has a dramatic effect on the amount of sludge and scum produced. If you have a garbage disposal avoid using it, because it will significantly increase the need for pumping.

The Seattle-King County Department of Public Health has licensed many private contractors to pump septic tanks. These contractors are listed in the telephone book yellow pages (under "Septic Tanks").

Pumping a septic tank requires digging a hole over the tank so that the manhole to the tank can be opened. Although the pumping contractor can dig it up for you, there may be an extra charge. The manhole is usually between 6" and 2' below the surface of the ground. Once the manhole is uncovered and opened, the contents of the tank, called "septage," are



Pumping a septic tank

pumped into a truck for disposal at an approved facility.

It is not necessary to wash the septic tank after pumping. The tank must not be disinfected. This destroys helpful bacteria that decompose the sludge and scum.

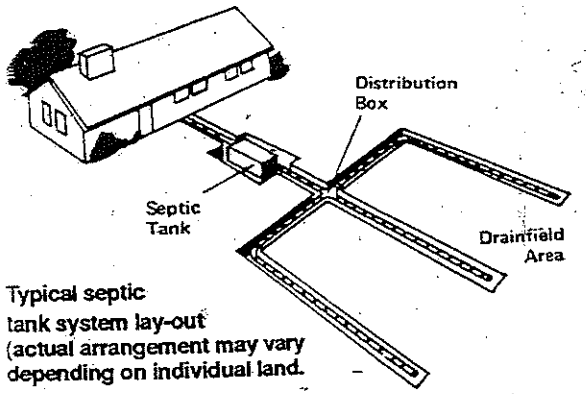
AND number of users / residents, prohibit !! please

We have all heard stories about septic tank systems that have worked well for many years without any maintenance or care. Unfortunately, these are the exception. Most septic tank systems require proper care if they are to work well for a long time.

Proper care includes:

- Knowing where your septic tank and drainfield are located.
- Pumping your septic tank every 3 years.
- Not adding additives to your septic tank.
- Maintaining your pump, if you have one.
- Practicing water conservation.
- Diverting runoff away from your drainfield.
- Not constructing anything over your drainfield.
- Not parking or driving cars over your drainfield.
- Being careful what you flush into your septic tank.
- Inspecting your system every year.

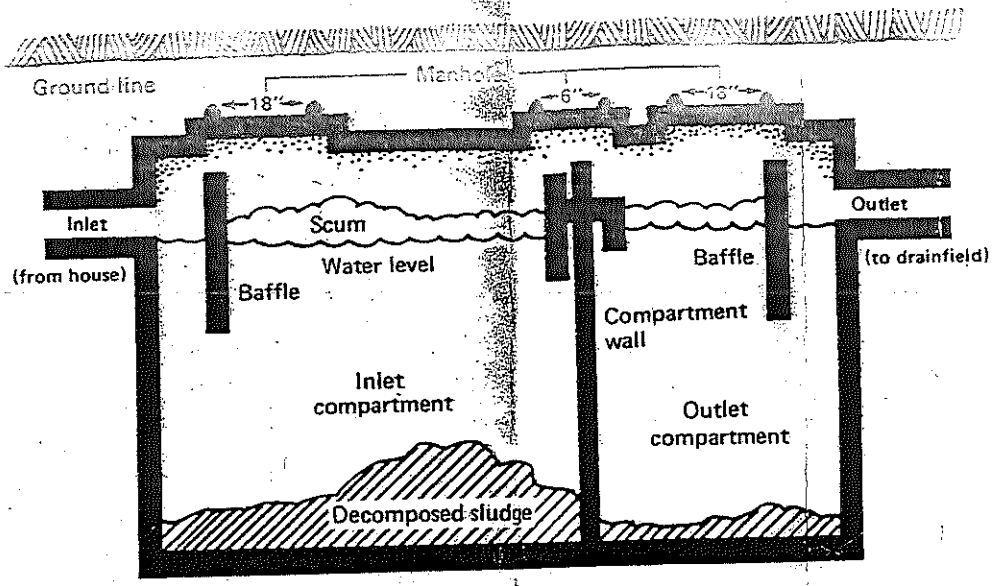
The important operation and maintenance steps itemized above and detailed on the following pages can significantly extend the life of your septic tank system. These steps are not difficult. If you do them regularly you can avoid the expense and inconvenience of repairing a system that has broken down prematurely.



Typical septic tank system lay-out (actual arrangement may vary depending on individual land.

What Is A Septic Tank System?

A septic tank system (also called an on-site sewage disposal system) is a disposal system for water and household wastes from the kitchen, bathroom, and laundry.



Septic tank: side cross section

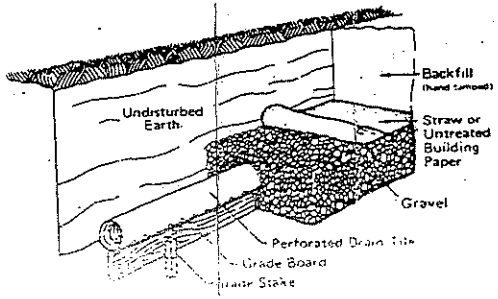
The system provides initial treatment of these wastes before they are further purified by the filtering action of the soil. The septic tank and drainfield are the system's two main components. The septic tank is a large underground storage tank which is usually made of concrete. However, some tanks are made of other materials such as fiberglass or plastic. The tank collects and holds all of the household wastes for two to three days, so that the heavy suspended materials such as feces, food residues and soils sink to the bottom to be decomposed by bacteria into sludge. Lighter materials such as grease and paper products float to the top and form a scum layer, which is trapped in the tank by baffles. The scum also decomposes in time. After being partially purified, the wastewater flows from the septic tank into the drainfield. At that point the wastewater is called "effluent."

The drainfield is a network of perforated pipes buried underground in gravel trenches. The effluent flows through the pipes out the holes and into a large area of soil. The soil is an excellent filter, removing the remaining suspended substances, pollutants, and bacteria from the effluent. A small amount of effluent taken up by grass and nearby trees is evaporated.

Alternative Disposal Systems

Alternative or enhanced treatment systems are used when the soil is not adequate to treat the effluent, or when there is not enough soil to install a conventional system due to seasonal water tables and/or impervious soil. In King County, the most commonly used alternative systems are Mound, Sand Filter, and Pressure Distribution systems.

These systems consist of a septic tank, pump tank, and drainfield. The drainfield consists of small pressure lines which distribute the effluent from the septic tank evenly throughout the drainfield 1-4 times per day. The openings in these pressure lines are very small and tend to clog easily, so you should avoid the use of a garbage disposal.



Drainfield: detailed cut-away illustration